CLERK'S OFFICE U.S. DIST. COURT AT ROANOKE, VA FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA ROANOKE DIVISION FEBRUARY 26, 2004, SESSION

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JOHN F. CORCORAN, CLERK
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) Criminal Number 7'04CROOUS
v.) All in violation of:
) Title 18, U.S.C. § 1341
WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN) Title 18, U.S.C. § 1343
	Title 15, U.S.C. § 78j(b)
	Title 18, U.S.C. § 401(3)
	Forfeiture

COUNT ONE (Mail Fraud)

The Grand Jury charges:

INTRODUCTION

At all times material to this Indictment:

1. WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN, hereinafter WARREN, lived at 342 Calvert Road, Troutville, Virginia, with his wife, Patricia Warren, until her departure in November, 2003. Patricia Warren currently resides in Spokane, Washington. WARREN and his family previously lived at 3351 Hunters Trail, Troutville, Virginia. WARREN moved to Troutville, Virginia in 1993. Prior to moving to Virginia, WARREN lived in Florida for 9 months. Prior to moving to Florida, WARREN and his family lived in Spokane, Washington for more than 15 years.

- 2. **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN** was employed by Anchor National Financial Services, Inc., in Spokane, Washington, from May, 1981, through April, 1982, and by Pacific West Securities, Inc., also in Spokane, Washington, from November, 1982, through January, 1986.
- of Washington as Topaz Corporation in 1980. **WARREN** changed the business name to **Investment Strategies**, **Inc.**, on May 12, 1981. The purpose of **Investment Strategies**, **Inc.**, as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, was "to disseminate information in the area of financial planning in order to educate individuals so they may be better prepared to plan their financial futures."
- 4. Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I was a limited partnership organized by WARREN in 1986, with the purpose to purchase imported Mexican silver and gold bullion, coins, and concentrates and resell them to American refineries, and also to invest in commodities, commodities futures contracts, and commodities futures options. Investment Strategies, Inc., was named the initial general partner of Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I. WARREN controlled all the investment activities of Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I and Investment Strategies, Inc.
- 5. **Investment Strategies, Inc.**, was dissolved in 1990, however **WARREN** continued to hold accounts at financial institutions in that company's name until the present.

- 6. Between 1983 and 1986, **WARREN** was registered with the State of Washington as a securities representative. According to the records of the National Association of Securities Dealers, **WARREN** has not been registered anywhere to sell securities since his employment ended with Pacific West Securities, Inc., in January, 1986.
- 7. Between November, 1983, and April, 1986, Investment Strategies, Inc., was registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) as a commodity trading advisor. Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I has never been registered with the CFTC and has never been registered to sell securities with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC).
- 8. Between 1983 and 1994, **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN** was registered with the CFTC and was listed as the principal owner of various companies, including **Investment Strategies, Inc.**, that were registered with the CFTC as commodity pool operators.
- 9. On August 10, 1995, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), as Plaintiff, filed a Civil Compliant in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, naming WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN, as well as several other companies, as Defendants. The Complaint alleged that WARREN and the other defendants made material misstatements and omissions of fact concerning false inflation of prior investment returns, projected returns of the funds, risks involved in the investments, the commingling of investors'

funds, and the speculative nature of the trading strategy employed by **WARREN** and others. A Final Judgement was entered against **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN** on October 31, 1995. This order permanently restrained and enjoined **WARREN** from committing fraud in the offer and sale of securities.

- as a limited liability company in Virginia on February 17, 1998, with a stated purpose as the commercial distribution and marketing of cleaning solutions and any other lawful activity allowed by the state of Virginia. **WARREN** is listed as the registered agent of **Mission Tech** and **WARREN**'s residence is listed as the registered office of **Mission Tech**. **WARREN** is listed as a member/manager of **Mission Tech**.
- 11. **Mission Tech** has never been registered with the CFTC and has never been registered to sell securities with the SCC. **WARREN** solely controls the operations of **Mission Tech** and has acted as its exclusive agent in all matters. **WARREN** has sold **Mission Tech** promissory notes and investment receipts to investors.
- 12. **Mission, LC**, was organized by **WARREN** as a limited liability company in Virginia on March 11, 1999, with the purpose to do research, distribution, and publishing of life improvement information, and any other lawful activity allowed by the state of Virginia.

- 13. **Mission** has never been registered with the CFTC and has never been registered to sell securities with the SCC. **WARREN** solely controls the operations of **Mission** and has acted as its exclusive agent in all matters. **WARREN** has sold **Mission** promissory notes and investment receipts to investors.
- 14. The promissory notes, investment receipts and limited partnership units sold by WARREN through the entities Mission Tech, LC, Mission, LC, and Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I constitute "securities" as defined by the Virginia Securities Act. The promissory notes, investment receipts and limited partnership units were not registered in Virginia and WARREN was not registered to sell securities in Virginia.

MEANS, METHODS AND PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME AND ARTIFICE TO DEFRAUD

15. From on or about at least 1986, and continuing to on or about January 28, 2004, the defendant, **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN**, devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money, by means of false pretenses, representations and promises, from diverse individuals and organizations by enticing those individuals and organizations to "invest" with him and his companies by promising high rates of returns. **WARREN's** promotional material advises that "a good portion of our share of the investing profits will fund projects and programs" such as "Foreign Christian evangelism", "Foreign missionary support", and "Bible School student aid".

THE SCHEME AND ARTIFICE

- 16. It was part of the scheme and artifice that the defendant, **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN**, did the following:
- a. Since at least 1986, WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN engaged in a fraudulent scheme to solicit members of the public to invest funds in his limited liability companies, Mission, LC, and Mission Tech, LC, and limited partnership, Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I for the purpose of trading commodity futures contracts.
- b. **WARREN**, individually and through his partnership and companies, solicited over 140 persons to invest in either gold refining or to trade commodity futures contracts by falsely representing to potential investors his ability to generate large profits from his companies' commodity futures trading activities. **WARREN's** assertions of large profits were fraudulent because he made nominal profits (\$47,080) during a three-year period (1999-2001).
- c. Contrary to **WARREN**'s representations that investor funds would be used to trade stock index futures, **WARREN** only used a small portion of the funds to trade futures contracts and deposited the majority of investor funds into bank accounts he controlled. **WARREN** provided investors with false account statements showing fictitious trading profits and engaged in a "Ponzi" type scheme, whereby **WARREN** paid earlier investors with funds obtained from new investors, and falsely represented the payments as trading profits.

- that he was a "financial pastor" with exceptional investment expertise. He targeted churches and religious organizations by offering free financial seminars and workshops under the name Excellent Life Institute. Warren solicited persons within these groups to invest funds with Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I, Mission Tech, and Mission. WARREN promised them unusually high rates of return on their investments and represented that he would use their funds to trade stock index futures contracts.
- e. In some instances, **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN** told investors that he had a "fast track" investment program and that in order for him to invest their monies they would have to meet certain "hardship" criteria, because he could only offer his financial expertise and services to a limited number of investors. For example, one investor was able to meet the "hardship" criteria because he was investing funds needed to care for his critically injured spouse. **WARREN** received \$80,000 from that investor and repaid less than \$10,000 in investment returns.
- f. WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN gave financial advice on his website www.excellentlife.org, using the pen name Thomas DeSante. The website states that WARREN and his staff have many decades of financial experience and wisdom, and that he "has a deep burden to see people use their income, assets, and resources wisely, and achieve victory and godliness in their finances."

Mission, LC, Investments

- g. **WARREN** solicited persons to invest funds with **Mission** by representing that profits on their investments were generated from trading stock index futures.
- h. **WARREN** provided **Mission** investors with an agreement labeled Mission Limited Liability Co. Receipt for Investment ("Mission Receipt"). Some receipts stated the investment was in a fixed return note yielding a guaranteed, fixed, annual, 30% rate of return while other receipts specified the investment was a membership in the private investment market trading program of **Mission**, **LC**, with profit sharing of 65% to the investor and 35% to **WARREN**.
- i. WARREN also provided at least some Mission investors with a one-page document entitled Investment Note Program ("Mission Program"). The Mission Program states that WARREN is Mission's "director" and that he has "exceptional investment experience." According to the Mission Program, Mission has available an annual renewable investment note that pays a fixed and guaranteed interest rate. Investor funds are, "100% secured by U. S. government Treasury Bills, the safest known investment in the country, placed at a large government regulated securities broker." The Mission investment note pays a flat, guaranteed, fixed interest rate of 30% for a one year time period, that a withdrawal of funds before that time will yield an interest rate of 20% per year prorated using a simple interest basis, and that investors that participate for six months will earn a 10% total return.

- j. In 1998, **WARREN** established commodity futures trading accounts in the name of **Mission** at LFG, a division of Refco, LLC (LFG), a futures commission merchant located in Chicago, Illinois. **WARREN** had exclusive authority over all trading and fund management for the accounts. **WARREN** commingled the funds of **Mission** investors but deposited only a portion of those funds into the LFG account.
- k. From 1999 through 2001, **WARREN** conducted trading in the **Mission** commodity futures accounts at LFG. During that time, **WARREN** traded only a small portion of investor funds and earned negligible profits. **WARREN** falsely represented to investors, that the **Mission** trading accounts were generating large profits. Using the United States mails and wire communications, **WARREN** disseminated false account statements to **Mission** investors showing large profitable returns.
- trading accounts at LFG to banks under his control and used those funds to pay the investors high returns on their **Mission** investments. **WARREN** falsely represented to these investors that the payments were from profits when, in fact, the payments were from the funds from other investors. **WARREN** also used **Mission** investor funds to pay his personal living and other expenses.

Mission Tech, LC, Investments

- m. **WARREN** solicited investors to invest funds with **Mission Tech** by representing that profits on their investments were generated from trading stock index futures.
- entitled Mission Tech LC Receipt for Investment ("Mission Tech Receipt"). Some receipts stated the investment was in a fixed return note yielding a guaranteed, fixed, annual, rate of return of 20% to 40%. Other receipts specified the investment was a membership and investment in the Financial Freedom program of Mission Tech containing either a general profit sharing provision based on a "current formula" or a profit sharing provision specifying up to 8% per week to the investor. Mission Tech receipts contain a guarantee section stating "Mission Tech guarantees to return all of the investors original capital to them."
- o. In 1998, **WARREN** established a commodity futures trading account in the name of **Mission Tech** at LFG. **WARREN** had exclusive authority over all trading and fund management for the account. **WARREN** commingled funds he received from **Mission Tech** investors but deposited only a portion of those funds in the **Mission Tech** account at LFG **WARREN** earned nominal profits on the LFG **Mission Tech** account.

- p. **WARREN** falsely represented to investors that the **Mission Tech** trading account was generating large profits. Using the United States mails and wire communications, **WARREN** disseminated false account statements to **Mission Tech** investors showing large profitable returns.
- q. WARREN transferred investor funds from the Mission Tech commodity trading account at LFG to banks under his control and used those funds to pay the investors high returns on their Mission Tech investments. WARREN falsely represented to these investors that the payments were from profits when, in fact, the payments were from the funds from other investors. WARREN also used Mission Tech investor funds to pay his personal living and other expenses.

Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I

exchanged for units of limited partnership in **Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I.** The partnership agreement stated that the partnership was organized to trade precious metals, including gold, and to conduct commodity futures trading. Partnership units were priced at \$5,000. **WARREN** instructed **Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I** investors to open self directed retirement accounts at the third party trust company, First Trust Corporation, which acted as administrator to the investor retirement accounts. In many cases, investors rolled over their IRA accounts to invest with **Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I. WARREN** advised the investors to instruct First Trust Corporation to invest their funds in

Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I. First Trust Corporation forwarded the funds as instructed by WARREN. WARREN never established any commodity futures trading accounts in the name of Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I. He commingled the proceeds with those of Mission and Mission Tech trading accounts at LFG.

- s. WARREN disseminated false written statements to First Trust Corporation as to the value of the limited partnership units. The December 31, 2003, statements from First Trust Corporation to 58 investors in Investment Strategies Ventures Fund I showed a total of \$3.7 million in retirement funds on deposit with Investment Strategies Venture Fund I.
- t. WARREN transferred investor funds in Investment Strategies

 Venture Fund I to bank accounts under his control and used those funds to pay
 investors high returns on their investments. WARREN falsely represented to these
 investors that the payments were from profits when, in fact, the payments were from
 the funds of other investors. WARREN also used Investment Strategies Ventures

 Fund I investor funds to pay his personal living and other expenses

Other Activities

u. From January through May, 2002, **WARREN** paid approximately \$1 million to a single investor. Those funds came primarily from funds invested during the same time period by individuals and organizations from Alabama.

- v. On September 6, 2002, the Virginia State Corporation Commission, issued a temporary injunction against **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN** prohibiting him from selling unregistered securities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This injunction was effective for 120 days, until January 6, 2003. After the 120 days expired, SCC requested that **WARREN** adhere to the conditions of the injunction for another 120 days. **WARREN** agreed to comply through June, 2003. However, during this same time period **WARREN** continued selling unregistered securities to investors.
- w. In March, 2003, **WARREN** opened three business checking accounts at First Charter Bank in North Carolina in the names of **Martech Company**, **Investment Strategies**, and **Eli Company**. The accounts were closed by First Charter Bank due to suspicious account activity in May, 2003. Proceeds from First Charter Bank were transferred to SunTrust Bank accounts in the names of **Mission Tech**, **Mission**, **Investment Strategies** and **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN**.
- address of 11 Concord Commons PL, SW, 233, Concord, North Carolina 28027, which is a UPS Store address. **WARREN** instructed UPS Store personnel to forward the mail to him at PO Box 501, Blue Ridge, Virginia 24064, upon his telephonic request. Mail was last forwarded on December 3, 2003.

- y. **WARREN** encouraged many investors to take large cash advances from their credit cards and to obtain second mortgages on their homes to obtain funds to invest with him because of the high yields he promised.
- z. **WARREN** defrauded more than 140 investors in his various schemes. To date, 83 investors have provided information about their investments. From these 83 investors, **WARREN** received approximately \$8.6 million and paid out a large portion of those funds. The quarterly statements provided by **WARREN** to these 83 investors showed they had on deposit with **WARREN** a total of \$12.6 million. Only \$650,000 has been located in all of **WARREN**'s known accounts.

THE MAILING

- 17. On or about December 2, 2003, in the Western Judicial District of Virginia and elsewhere, the defendant, **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN**, for the purpose of executing, and attempting to execute, the scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money by false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, did knowingly cause to be sent by mail, a "Receipt and Acceptance" form for a \$20,000 investment guaranteeing a 22% annual yield, which was mailed from Investment Strategies Group, Box 159, Cloverdale, Virginia 24077, and was mailed to Mr. Greg Broemeling, 27980 N. Juliaetta, Juliatta, ID 83535.
 - 18. In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341.

(Wire Fraud)

The Grand Jury charges:

1. Paragraphs 1 through16 of **Count One** are incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

THE WIRE COMMUNICATION

- 2. On or about January 14, 2004, in the Western Judicial District of Virginia and elsewhere, WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN, for the purpose of executing, and attempting to execute, the scheme and artifice for obtaining money by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, did cause to be transmitted by means of a wire communication in interstate commerce, certain signs, signals, and sounds, that is, an interstate facsimile from WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN sent from the Botetourt County Public Library, fax number (540) 977-2407, and sent to First Trust Corporation in Denver, Colorado. The faxed document consisted of an Investment Authorization Form and a letter signed by WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN, authorizing First Trust Corporation to wire \$165,000 from John Meyers' First Trust account to an Investment Strategies Venture Fund account controlled by WARREN. As a result the funds were wire transferred to an Investment Strategies account at SunTrust Bank the following day.
 - 3. In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

COUNT THREE (Securities Fraud)

The Grand Jury charges:

- 1. Paragraphs 1 through 16 of **Count One** of the Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference herein.
- 2. Beginning on or about 1986, and continuing to on or about January 28, 2004, in the Western Judicial District of Virginia, and elsewhere, the defendant **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN** did unlawfully, knowingly and willfully, directly and indirectly, by the use of the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, use and employ manipulative and deceptive devices and contrivances in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, in violation of Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 240.10b-5, promulgated by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, by
 - a. employing devices, schemes, and artifices to defraud:
 - b. making and causing to be made untrue statements of material fact and omitting to state facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and
 - c. engaging in acts, practices, and courses of business which operated and would operate as a fraud and deceit in connection with the purchase and sale of securities.
 - 3. In violation of Title 15, United States Code, Sections 78j(b) and 78ff.

COUNT FOUR (Criminal Contempt)

The Grand Jury charges:

- 1. Paragraphs 1 through 16 of **Count One** of the Indictment are realleged and incorporated by reference herein.
- From on or about 1995 and continuing to on or about January 28, 2004, 2.. in violation of an Order within the jurisdiction of a United States Court, the defendant, WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN, did willfully disobey the injunction permanently restraining and enjoining WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN from committing fraud in the offer and sale of securities in violation of Section 17 (a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U. S. C. § 77q (a)) and in violation of Section 10 (b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U. S. C. § 78j (b)) and Rule 10b-5 (17 C. F. R. § 240.10b-5) promulgated thereunder, ordered in the Final Judgment Against WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN, issued October 31, 1995, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington by Judge Fred VanSickle, issued in Securities and Exchange Commission v. International Consulting & Management, LTD, Providence Managed Portfolios, LTD., Providence International Debenture Fund, LTD., Providence Annuity & Assurance, LTD., Rankin Maurice Smith, TeDeum Corporation, d/b/a Professional Advisors Management Corporation, and William Thomas Warren, (Civ. No. 95-0315), in that he committed the following acts all of which were prohibited by the permanent injunction:

- a. The defendant, **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN**, fraudulently induced persons to invest funds with him purportedly to be used for the purchase of stock futures by, among other means, promising a rate of return of 30% or more from such investments, guaranteeing the investor's principal and representing that investor funds were 100% secured by U.S. Treasury bills, well knowing that such representations were false; and
- b. The defendant, **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN**, by such fraudulent means as enumerated above sold securities to investors in, among others, **Mission, LC**, and **Mission Tech, LC**, limited liability companies organized, controlled and operated by the defendant **WILLIAM THOMAS WARREN**.
 - 3. In violation of Title 18 United States Code § 401(3). (Criminal Contempt)

COUNT FIVE

FORFEITURE

The Grand Jury alleges:

1. In committing violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1343, as alleged in Count(s) One and Two of this Indictment, the Defendant shall forfeit to the United States of America, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C), as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2461, any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the offenses alleged in this Indictment, without regard to the type of interest held, wherever located and in whatever name held.

- 2. The property to be forfeited to the United States includes but is not limited to the following property:
 - (a) Money Judgment in the sum of not more than \$20,000,000.00, as this sum represents the amount of money derived from violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1343.
 - (b) Any and all funds and/or interest on deposit and/or otherwise secured from the following financial accounts:

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	ACCOUNT NAME	ACCOUNT NO.
First Union National Bank of Florida	Thomas Warren	1090003894468
First Virginia Bank - Southwest (now Branch Bank and Trust, 310 First Street, 2nd Floor, Roanoke, Virginia 24011)	William T. Warren	46040269, now number 5232429897
First Citizen's Bank, 3862 Electric Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24018	William T. Warren	8921739607
Bank of Fincastle, 23 South Roanoke Street, Fincastle, VA 24090	Thomas Warren	91646601
Bank of Fincastle, 23 South Roanoke Street, Fincastle, VA 24090	Thomas Warren, d/b/a Investment Strategies	51750602
Bank of Fincastle, 23 South Roanoke Street, Fincastle, VA 24090	Mission LC	64158201
Bank of Fincastle, 23 South Roanoke Street, Fincastle, VA 24090	Mission Tech LC	64160501
Bank of Fincastle, 23 South Roanoke Street, Fincastle, VA 24090	Thomas Warren, d/b/a I S Group	51750603
Suntrust Bank	Mission Tech LC	1000002055183
SunTrust Bank, 10 Franklin Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24011	W. Thomas Warren, d.b.a Investment Strategies	1000002055167

SunTrust Bank, 10 Franklin Road, Roanoke, VA 24011	Mission LC	1000002092038
SunTrust Bank, 10 Franklin Road, Roanoke, VA 24011	W. Thomas Warren	1000002091972
SunTrust Bank, 10 Franklin Road, Roanoke, VA 24011	d.b.a. Investment Strategies	1000007194466
SunTrust Bank, 10 Franklin Road, Roanoke, VA 24011	Eli Company (William T. Warren)	1000007194474
LFG, a division of Refco, 550 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60661	Mission Tech LLC	736LU
LFG, a division of Refco, 550 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60661	Mission Tech LLC	217MR
Rosenthal Collins Group, LLC, 216 West Jackson Blvd, Suite 400, Chicago, Il 60606	W. Thomas Warren doing business as Eli Company	466-89645
Alaron Trading Corporation, 822 West Washington Blvd, Chicago, Il 60607	William Thomas Warren	40032123
Alaron Trading	Eli Company (William T. Warren)	400-32124

- (c) Certain real property and appurtenances located at 342 Calvert Road, Troutville, VA, and being the same property conveyed to William Thomas Warren, III and Patricia L. Warren, from Harold L. and Catherine Bowers, husband and wife, by Deed dated June 13, 2000, which Deed was recorded June 19, 2000, in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office of Botetourt County, Virginia in Deed Book 0585, Page 0827
- 3. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with a third person;
- (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the above-described forfeitable property, including but not limited to the property described above.

A TRUE BILL, this 26 day of February, 2004

FOREMAN